

The Ten-year Scientific Index

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Albinistic patterning in a drake Teal

by C. B. WAINWRIGHT

Received 13th November, 1962

The occurrence of albinistic patterning in certain species of the Anatidae has been recorded by the Harrisons (1961), involving a white neck spot, white chin spot and symmetrical white primaries. They have recorded this in the Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* Linnaeus, the Mandarin *Aix galericulata* (Linnaeus), the Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* Linnaeus and Salvadori's Duck *Anas waigiensis* Rothschild and Hartert.

Although they have also recorded a white neck spot and semi-rings in Teal *Anas crecca crecca* Linnaeus, they have no records of white primaries occurring in this species in association with a white neck spot. It is of interest therefore to record that on 3rd August, 1962, I trapped and ringed a drake Teal at Abberton Reservoir, Essex. The bird was in eclipse plumage and the third and fourth primaries of each wing were completely white. There was a white patch at the base of the neck anteriorly and pale patches were present on the webs of both feet.

Reference:

Harrison, James M. and Jeffery G. Albinistic patterning in the Mallard, Muscovy, Mandarin and Salvadori's Ducks. *Bull. B.O.C.* 81., pp. 168-172.

The Indigo Birds

by C. M. N. WHITE

Received 18th December, 1962

The Indigo Birds are members of the Viduinae, sometimes placed in a separate genus *Hypochera*, but better included in *Vidua*, since they only differ from typical members of that genus in that males in breeding dress do not develop elongated tail feathers. Male Indigo Birds in breeding plumage are black with usually a metallic iridescence which may be pure green, steel green, blue-green, blue or violet; sometimes they are more or less matt black with or without a violet tinge. In addition there are two other variable characters. The primaries are mostly drab brown but are usually black in the north of the range. Soft parts may exhibit red bills and feet or whitish bills and pinkish-brown feet. On the basis of various combinations of these characters a number of species have been described, and there is little agreement among students as to how many species should